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The Progressive Farmer is the
Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers'
Association and N. C. State Farmers'
Alliance.**PLEASE NOTICE.**

In writing to this office to change the address of a paper, our subscribers will do us a favor by stating the office at which the paper is received, as well as the one to which it is desired to be sent. Failure to do this puts us to a great deal of trouble and the necessity of going through a long list of names, involving not only much work, but much loss of time, when time is valuable.

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OUR BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

We notice that the Boards of Agriculture of other States are availing themselves of the leisure winter season for holding Farmers' Institutes. We find a list of appointments, made by the Missouri Board, embracing sixteen counties in that State, and to run well up into the month of January. This is as it should be. These Institutes are of great value to the farmers and are most highly appreciated by them, when properly conducted. We have never seen them evince more interest than in these meetings.

It will be remembered that among the amendments to the law governing our Board of Agriculture, which were proposed and recommended by the Farmers' Convention of last January, was one, saying that our Board should co-operate and aid in the formation of Farmers' Institutes in all the counties of the State and made it the duty of the Board to send the Commissioner of Agriculture and the State Chemist, or some of the faculty of the Agricultural College to form and operate these Institutes. This amendment was proposed in that Convention—it was adopted and the committee of the Convention took it to the Legislature and it was incorporated in the law.

But how has the law been observed? The law was passed in February and nearly ten months have elapsed. The farmers in that Convention were in earnest. They did not leave their homes in distant counties and come to Raleigh to pass meaningless resolutions, and to "scare" the Legislature and return home. It was not that character or class of men who composed that body. They want Farmers' Institutes. They thought that possibly the Board could find something by which the time of the Commissioner could be profitably employed, and they believed that this was one of the ways by which it could best be done. The Legislature agreed with this view of the Convention and adopted the suggestion and made it law. Mr. Robinson was put in charge as Commissioner in the month of April. What has he done in this direction? What has the Board or

dered him to do? Does the Board intend to obey the law? If so, when? We cheerfully open our columns to the Board or to Commissioner Robinson for an answer to these questions, and would kindly inform them in advance that they are not the questions of the editor of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, but of the great body of farmers all over this State, whose interests and wishes and views THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER represents.

They believe that they have right to be heard in regard to the management of this Department. They feel that their wishes have, time and again, been ignored and their interests disregarded, and it is perfectly natural that they should be watchful, and especially as to the duties imposed at their instance, in the Convention referred to. Again we say to Commissioner Robinson and to the Board that these columns are open for an answer to the question: What has the Board done towards executing the law in regard to Farmers' Institutes?

CHRISTMAS.

Before our readers will again hear from us, Christmas day, with all the endearing recollections and hallowed associations of childhood's gleeful hours, will have come and gone. Ah, the millions of happy little hearts that will bound with unspeakable joy as the loving, patient Mama will hang the little stockings about the room! And it were worth a half life time of labor when, after the crackling fire is built at 4 o'clock in the morning and the lights turned on, to fall back in bed and witness developments. Echoes of soft whisperings steal down the stairway, to be followed by excited voices as they bound from their warm trundle-beds and come leaping and laughing into the room in their night clothes, with pants, dresses and shoes in their arms. With nervous fingers they clutch the stockings—down they all go on the floor, the stockings are inverted and the treasures are poured out! Exclamations of surprise, pleasure and rapturous joy fill the house! Happy Christmas! happy children! happy parents! But it may be that just across the way, are little hearts, that are crushed with the advent of the saddest of all the days of the year—it is no Christmas to them. The gloom of poverty hangs like a pall over their scanty, chilly beds. Gladden their hearts, ye fortunate ones, by some little presents. And ye whose hearts are rejoicing in the unbroken circle of a happy family—where there is no vacant chair, remember the lonely little ones at Oxford, Thomasville and Charlotte.

Let the old and the young, the high and the low, the rich and the poor, make it a happy, joyous occasion.

The faithful editor and the hard-worked printer claim, as is the custom, to have a slight respite from their labors, and with the best wishes of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER for a happy, happy Christmas, for all its readers, it respectfully bids them adieu until the first week in January.

VIRGINIA GRANGERS KICKING.

The State Grange of Virginia was in session last week. The Virginia Legislature is in session, and the Grange sent a resolution to the Speaker of the House of representatives at Richmond. The resolution is in these plain words:

"The State Grange of Virginia, now in session, protests emphatically and unanimously against the action of the Legislature in displacing a farmer by a politician as Commissioner of Agriculture, and we demand that this outrage upon the farmers of Virginia be righted."

If it be not "righted" what are they to do? Where is their remedy? It is in organization and at the ballot box—in primary meetings and through the press. The farmers will, perhaps, learn something after awhile. They should call for the records and see who the men are, in legislatures, that disregard their interests and they should go to the primaries and to the ballot box solidly, and consign all such to a merited oblivion. That would stop it.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL VS. INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATIVE MONOPOLY.

The Farmers' National Alliance, at its session at Shreveport, laid down as one of its demands, that the General Government should operate telegraph and telephone lines as adjuncts to the U. S. Postal Service. The Knights of Labor, and we believe other labor organizations, have done the same thing. That man who cannot see the dangerous strides with which monopoly is driving us to anarchy and ruin, is blind. Almost every day we see an announcement in the papers of the organization of some powerful monied "trust" or syndicate, for the absolute control of some article or commodity, which the people cannot possibly do without. Whither are we tending? Do the people appreciate the danger? Are our representatives in Congress alive to the peril which environs us? Where is to be the limit to this cancerous greed of monopoly? We are no alarmist, but the signs of the times are ominous of evil.

We are gratified to see that one man, at least, in the U. S. Senate seems to comprehend the danger, and has introduced a bill looking to the accomplishment of the object sought by the Farmers' Alliance. It was introduced by Mr. Cullom and provides for the establishment and operation of a United States postal telegraph, provides for ten trunk lines of telegraph, embracing all cities of the States and Territories. The bill provides that the lines shall be constructed by the army engineering corps, under the direction of the Secretary of War, on iron poles, with a capacity for twelve wires, and shall when completed, be transferred to the control of the Postmaster-General. The Secretary of War shall, if he deems it expedient, take possession of the lines now used for military purposes as a portion of the system. The rates to be charged are ten cents for twenty words, under five hundred miles, and five cents additional for each additional ten words, and for distances greater than five hundred miles, an additional rate of five cents for each 250 miles. Press night rates are to be thirty-five cents per one hundred words, and day rates 75 cents per 100 words. The office of director-general of telegraph is created, the appointment to be made as is that of an assistant postmaster-general, with like salary. The appointee must be a practical telegraph man, of at least ten years' experience.

THE "NEW SCHEME" EXPOSED

It will be remembered that we commented, in our issue of the 1st inst., on an article which was written from Newman, Ga., to the Atlanta Constitution, and which was being reproduced by the Charlotte Democrat and a few others of our State exchanges. It was a slanderous tirade against the Farmers' Alliance. We expressed surprise that "a communication bearing so strongly and unmistakably the dark impress of bitter prejudice against the farmers of Georgia, should have been admitted to the columns of the ordinarily fair-minded and astute Constitution." We said of its author, "he is so full of bitterness and prejudice and hatred towards the farmers that we would take even his sworn evidence in this matter with several grains of allowance. It would doubtless be interesting to know just who this correspondent is, and in what kind of business he is engaged (if any at all)." Appearing, as it did, in the Constitution—a paper of National reputation, and which is liberally patronized by our people, and among them many members of the Alliance, and copied by some of our State exchanges, we felt that justice to the members of the order, not only in Georgia, but in our own State, demanded that the truth should be made known. Accordingly, we wrote to a gentleman in Georgia to know something of the

author of the communication. We ask the Democrat and other papers which copied it to give his answer a place in their columns in refutation of the gross misrepresentation which they allowed to go into their columns against the Alliance. It is about what we expected and here it is:

COWETA, Co., Ga., Dec. 16, '87.

MR. L. L. POLK—SIR:

"Your favor of the 26th ult. to hand enclosing a clipping from the Atlanta Constitution. In reply to your enquiry, I will say that this article was written by a young lawyer of Newman, Ga.,—a sort of migratory bird—here today and somewhere else tomorrow. He has not been in this county but a short time, and a part of that time he has spent in another county trying to run a paper. He made a failure and came back to Newman. The people in the county cared nothing about the article. The merchants of Newman were more indignant about it than even the Alliance. If he had closed at the second period, he would have told the truth, but from that point to the end it is all false."

THE PROPER WAY TO DO IT.

For years the State Grange of New Jersey has had what it terms "the legislative committee." Its duty is to go to the capital during the sittings of the Legislature and to see that the measures wanted by the Grange are attended to, and to make a report to the Grange. They have now gone a step further and appointed a similar committee to go into the lobby at Washington and look after their interests in that quarter. This is the only way by which the farmers can secure legislation favorable to their interests. Senator Vance told us in his great speech in favor of farmers' organizations at Fayetteville that during the fifteen years he has been in Congress, of all the thousands of men who had thronged the lobbies of Congress in the interest of almost everything imaginable, he had never yet seen a single farmer there to work for the interests of the farmers. It was clearly demonstrated in our own Legislature last winter, that farmers must walk boldly up and say what they want and what they intend to have. If farmers can't get seats on the floor, they must take their position in the lobby in the committee rooms and make themselves heard and felt.

DOWN WITH THE "BLOODY SHIRT."

The following patriotic sentiments we find in the Farm and Home, an agricultural journal of decided merit, published at Springfield, Mass.:

"Away with the 'bloody shirt'! There is still too much effort to keep alive sectional hatred in this grand country of ours. There are men and politicians who seem to regard it treasonable for our Southern States to honor those who were their leaders during the war, either living or dead. But our friends of the South would not be men if they did not esteem their old leaders. The war is long since past; both sides believed they were right in that conflict; the South was convinced of its error by force of arms, and history does not record an instance in which a conquered people have more cheerfully accepted the arbitrament of war. Today the United States has really no North, no South, no East, no West, so intimate is the relationship existing between the industry, commerce and agriculture of the various sections. Let us keep our faces to the front and unitedly work together to fulfill the destiny which lies before American citizenship. Let us be good citizens rather than bad politicians. These remarks are inspired not so much by recent political events as by a report of the exercises at the unveiling in Richmond of a statue to the Gen. Lee—a Christian hero, whose memory is treasured by all who knew him, irrespective of sectional or party lines."

This sounds very much like the utterances of an old soldier. While those who were quiet, docile citizens in war, but have become blatant, valiant soldiers in peace—those who "sauced the battle from afar"—those who got desperately mad in 1865—North and South—have kept up the nauseous, disgusting and cowardly wrangle of abuse of opposite sections, there has been no other feeling in the hearts of

the true soldiers who followed the Stars and Stripes, or the Southern Cross, than that which has been so happily expressed by our brother of the Farm and Home.

We remember most vividly how such sentiments were received by the Grand Army Posts of the city of Boston three years ago, when uttered in one of their public meetings by a "Johny Reb." You are right, brother, Southern troops fought you like men and they surrendered like men. They followed their beloved and immortal leader through the red blaze of battle with a devotion and constancy and heroism unsurpassed in all the annals of war, and they have illustrated the grand type of their manhood no less by their quiet acquiescence in its results. Designing, cowardly demagogues have kept up the "war of words," to the utter disgust of true manly soldiers on both sides.

THE FARMERS ALLIANCE.

The following, a well written, thoughtful and timely article, we clip from the Durham Daily Recorder:

Since the memorable and remarkable Grange movement, there has been nothing of great interest in the agricultural world, until the rise of the Secret Order among the farmers known as the "Farmers' Alliance," which is already wide spread, and continually extended among the sturdy yeomanry of the land; embracing the wives and daughters as well as the sterner sex.

The movement of the Grange was leveled against the exorbitant charges and ruinous discriminating freight rates of the railroads, against the agricultural products of the country. Their efforts were crowned with success; the strong arm of the law was stretched over these great corporations, they were brought to terms, and the grievances of the farmers were redressed and oppressions removed. But the good work went on until joined by the demands of the mercantile world, the dormant power of the General Government was evoked, and the passage of the Inter-State Commerce Bill, reached over all transportation lines between the States, and subjected them to rigorous control. Then the Grange pretty nearly passed out of sight, and the farmers, sated with the fruits and glories over the railroads, seemed resting in a long peace.

But the untoward events of the past few years, the constant decline of real prosperity in the agricultural business, the wide spread and general indebtedness of the farmers, the ruinous rates at which they have been buying provisions, the iniquities of the mortgage system, have all conspired to rouse them to a sense of their danger; and taking counsel from the dangers in sight, they have organized to avoid being crushed amid their roar and fury of the breakers just ahead.

That they have delayed too long to achieve all the success which they desire, can not be doubted. The movement should have been begun much earlier, and thus much of the dangers and losses now inevitable, would have been avoided; but "better late than never" is a truism admitted by all—and we truly rejoice that the farmers have at least waked up to the dangers of the situation, and are making an earnest effort to mend their ways.

We neither understand nor over rate the importance of the Farmers of the country. We do not propose to flatter them with fulsome eulogies; nor to iterate and reiterate their real value to the community. But we certainly wish them much success in any laudable endeavor to better their condition.

There may be some features in the Farmers' Alliance that are objectionable, and may not commend themselves to everybody after a close scrutiny; but these sensible, practical men look at things as they are, and do not expect perfection in human organizations; but balance the good against the bad; and after thus balancing, we have no doubt that the great majority of the farmers will approve the order.

We do not give much weight to the objection that it is secret. Secrecy is the soul of all great actions, and then there may be much that can be accomplished by them by having a philanthropic feature in the order, and generally, these philanthropic features are secret so far as their execution is concerned.

One thing may be set down as absolutely, the farmers are too honest, sensible, and patriotic, to admit anything into their meetings that would be in any way harmful to themselves or injurious to others.